

HOLIFIELD SPARKS STRUGGLING WANDERERS

Oxford City 1,
Wycombe Wanderers 3

TWO sparks of Mick Holifield's undoubted skill were enough to swing Tuesday night's Premier Midweek Floodlight League encounter Wycombe Wanderers' way at Oxford. But for much of the game it was a long, hard struggle for an out-of-form Blues side.

It was Holifield's first full game since January 16 against Marlow and on his second half performance he must surely be a strong contender for tomorrow's (Saturday) match against Walton.

After taking the whole of the first half to get back into the swing of things, Mick roared in for two goals with Tony Amos sandwiching one in between.

The 3-1 scoreline gives the impression it was fairly comfortable for Wycombe. But in fact they were matched in every department by City except finishing. For once, the Blues were on target.

However, it was not surprising that Wycombe found things difficult with no less than five changes in the line up from Saturday's team at Leatherhead. The cohesion shown in last week's game was understandably lacking.

Neither side was helped by some weak refereeing from Mr. M. Fleet (Aylesbury) who was forced to stand in at the last moment. Reluctant to penalise, he was lucky the game didn't flare up as was threatening before half time.

After the opening ten minutes of the first half when Sinnott tested Peter Spittle with a hard drive and Johnny Hutchinson brought a good save from John West, the game became scrappy. Oxford pinned their hopes on long balls through the middle which gave Ian Rundle and Rob Williams plenty of work. But neither centre back could dominate the home front runners.

Alan Inseal and Alan Evans kept Wycombe's score sheet blank by booting two goalbound efforts from Hutchinson and Gane off the line but chances were few and far between.

The ten minutes after half time produced more football than the whole of the first half. Firstly Bobby Marcham put Oxford ahead with a fine goal, a minute later Wycombe equalised and only a tremendous save from Spittle thwarted Hunt.

A superb ball from Eric Metcalfe, splitting the two centre backs, gave Marcham the chance to run on and crack home a well taken goal but soon afterwards Tony Amos set up a similar goal for Holifield, Mick rifling the ball home on the left foot from 15 yards.

The game deteriorated after this burst of goals but the advent of Tony Horseman from the substitute's bench brought more stability to the visitors' front line. Bodger came on for John Hutchinson, who looked totally out of form.

Wycombe went ahead after 77 minutes when Dave Bullock thumped over a left foot cross which caught the City defence unprepared. An Oxford defender completely missed his intended clearance, leaving Amos with only the 'keeper to beat — and not for the first time this season. Tony carefully slotted the ball under Smith's body.

Four minutes later a bad mistake by Alan Evans put the result beyond doubt and handed Wanderers three valuable points. A long ball to the far post by Derek Gamblin seemed to be dropping perfectly for Evans to clear, but Holifield stole in

and nodded home with Evans still waiting for the ball. S.E.

OXFORD: J. West, M. Kyle, A. Evans, T. Stokes, A. Inseal, E. Metcalfe, M. Hunt, A. Sinnott, R. Marcham (sub. D. Gray 71 mins), Woodley, W. Silto.
WYCOMBE: P. Spittle, D. Gamblin, I. Rundle, R. Williams, D. Bullock, A. Gane, L. Pritchard, V. Jameson, J. Hutchinson (sub. A. Horseman 68 mins), A. Amos, M. Holifield.

Referee: M. M. Fleet (Aylesbury).
Half time: 0-0. Goalscorers: Oxford — Marcham (48), Holifield 2 (50, 80), Amos (77).

PREMIER MIDWEEK FLOODLIGHT LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wycombe W	6	5	0	1	23	3	11
Wokingham T	7	3	3	1	7	8	10
Marlow	6	2	2	2	10	9	7
Banbury U	6	2	2	2	10	17	7
Chesham U	6	0	3	3	4	13	3
Oxford C	4	1	0	3	7	10	2